

Application No.: 10/661,221

Amendment and Response to Office Action dated April 22, 2006

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REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are currently pending. Independent claims 1, 19, 24, and 29 have been amended to more clearly set forth the subject matter of the present invention. In view of the amendments and comments below, reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants' Response to Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 6-24 and 28, including independent claims 1, 19, and 24 have been rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 4,574,049 to Pittner ("Pittner.") Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to independent claims 1, 19, and 24 obviate this grounds of rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to a method of removing contaminants from water which has been exposed to hydrocarbon or chemical processing equipment. Specifically, this is water which is downstream of and in-line with hydrocarbon or chemical processing equipment such as oil refining equipment. The water is fed from the hydrocarbon or chemical processing equipment to a reverse osmosis system which is designed to remove contaminants such as hydrogen sulfides, ammonia, and/or amines which are present in the water as a result of the chemical or hydrocarbon processing and if not removed from the system may cause corrosion to chemical refining equipment.

Pittner is directed to a method of water purification, but does not disclose a system that is in-line with hydrocarbon or chemical processing equipment. Further, Pittner does not disclose, teach or suggest a reverse osmosis system which may remove amine contaminants as in the present invention. Pittner fails to disclose every element of the present claims as amended, and therefore fails as a proper anticipatory reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the

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rejections under Section 102 of claims 1, 19, and 24, and the claims which depend therefrom are appropriate and respectfully requested.

Applicants' Response to Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 5, 27 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pittner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,766,479 to Collentro et al. ("Collentro,"). Similarly, claims 4, 25, and 26 have been rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Pittner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,887,745 to Tonelli et al ("Tonelli.") These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Pittner in combination with either Tonelli or Collentro fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for failing to teach or suggest every element of the present claims. Tonelli and Collentro are cited to address specific limitations of the dependent claims. However, neither Tonelli nor Collentro cures the deficiencies of Pittner. Specifically, neither Tonelli nor Collentro discloses a reverse osmosis system in-line with a water feed which is downstream of and in-line with hydrocarbon or chemical processing equipment.

Since the combination of Pittner with either Tonelli or Collentro fails to teach or suggest every limitation of the present claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under Section 103 are appropriate and respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-29 is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested.

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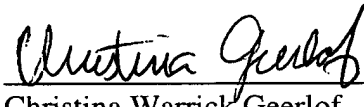
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Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment in fees to deposit account no. 08-2461.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned counsel at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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